

Applicants note that each of the claims are directed to a data processing apparatus, data processing method or computer program that receives structure description data relating to a media segment and converts the structure description data into representation description data relating to representation order, representation timing and synchronization information of the media segment. Accordingly, the recitations of each of the independent claims, as well as of the various dependent claims are so closely related as to make a restriction requirement inappropriate. For this reason, it is submitted that the restriction requirement is inappropriate and that all the claims in the present application should be examined together.

Applicants further note that the overwhelming majority of the search field for the identified invention appears to be co-extensive. Although there might be specific search areas that are required for particular claims that are not required for the others, this alone is believed to be inadequate and thus an inappropriate basis for requiring restriction. Further, the basis for the Examiner's requirement is unclear because the claims of group I do not recite a "document" as asserted by the Examiner, and the claims of group II do not recite a "television signal" as asserted by the Examiner.

Moreover, the restriction requirement set forth by the Examiner omits one of the two criteria for a proper restriction requirement now established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy. As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, an appropriate explanation must be set forth by the Examiner as to the existence of a "serious burden" if the restriction requirement were not required. By virtue of the Examiner's requirement and since the claims of the various groups are so closely related, it is submitted that there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all these claims together.

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Furthermore, as noted above, the search for the claims includes a significant amount of overlap. Thus, additionally, no serious burden would come to bear on the Examiner.

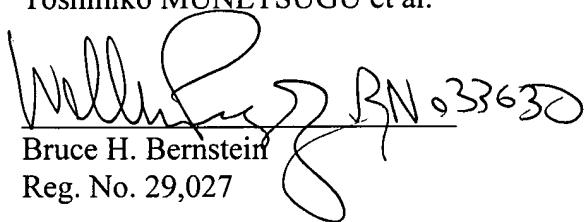
For all of these reasons, and consistent with the office policy as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the position taken in the above-mentioned Official Action and withdraw the restriction requirement in the present application. Accordingly, the Examiner's restriction requirement is believed to be improper and has been traversed for the reasons set forth above.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants have elected with traverse, the invention identified as Invention I, claims 1-9 and 11-13 in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the present response or this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshihiko MUNETSUGU et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein". Above the signature, the text "Respectfully submitted, Toshihiko MUNETSUGU et al." is printed. Below the signature, the text "Reg. No. 29,027" is printed.

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191